



UNITED STATES MISSION
TO THE
ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION
AND DEVELOPMENT
12, AVENUE RAPHAËL, 75016 PARIS, FRANCE

September 20, 2010

The Honorable Angel Gurría
Secretary General
Organization for Economic Cooperation
and Development
2, rue André Pascal
75775 Paris Cedex 16, France

Dear Secretary General Gurría:

The United States government appreciates the leadership that the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has provided over the years on matters of Internet policy. From the Internet's early rise on the global stage, the OECD has been a vital forum encouraging Member states to work together to create the economic and regulatory conditions that have enabled the rapid growth of the online environment. We are pleased that the OECD is pursuing a multi-stakeholder approach to its deliberations on information and communications technology (ICT). The recent addition of formal advisory bodies to the deliberations of the Committee for Information, Computer and Communications Policy (ICCP) that represent Internet technical groups (ITAC) as well as civil society interests (CSISAC) shows that the OECD is a mature and robust forum to address the Internet policy debate.

I am writing now to encourage the OECD to take the next step in the organization's Internet and ICT agenda: convening a high-level policy forum that would bring together senior policy leaders and stakeholders to chart out policies to enhance and increase Internet access around the world as well as to create a higher level of trust for actors on the Internet. The meeting should focus on broadband deployment and access – including national broadband plans and appropriate metrics – as well as principles for Internet policymaking and the role of various actors (e.g., government, industry, civil society) in policymaking. In order to tackle emerging challenges in areas including privacy, Internet intermediary liability, cyber-security and online intellectual property protection, we must expand the global capacity for the multi-stakeholder policy development strategies that have proven successful – indeed, indispensable – in the Internet arena. 2011 and 2012 will see the convening of several important ICT policy-making fora, including bodies such as the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), which will consider the role of governments in relation to the Internet. We believe the OECD is a promising venue for a forum to start building consensus on Internet policy principles, while strengthening the OECD's role and visibility in global economic development.

We recommend that the original Working Party on Communications Infrastructure and Services (CISP) proposal for a one-time summit to focus on a theme of national broadband strategies be broadened

to create a forum for policy-makers to reflect additionally upon critical issues in the Internet multi-stakeholder policy process. Such a forum builds on the spirit of the 2008 Seoul Ministerial that focused on the role of the Internet economy. In addition to discussing broadband diffusion and access through broadband plans and other means, participants can consider ways to promote trust between all actors and policies to ensure the Internet continues to increase innovation, economic growth and opportunity globally. We propose that the OECD call the overarching forum, "The Internet Economy Global Forum." We further propose that the forum meet regularly, perhaps annually. If so, then the OECD membership could decide upon a relevant theme to best reflect recent developments in the Internet policy debate at that point in time. We propose that the theme for the 2011 event be, "Expanding the Internet Economy."

The 2011 summit focus could incorporate specific areas where the OECD is already exercising leadership for the Internet Economy, such as best practices development for Internet intermediaries, privacy and data protection, broadband diffusion and metrics, advanced wireless communications and the economic impact of new spectrum management policies, and green ICTs. The 2011 summit could also provide the opportunity to re-affirm and refresh the OECD's vision as reflected in the Seoul Declaration, provide the ICCP Working Parties and other relevant OECD entities with renewed guidance, and provide opportunities for OECD members to reach consensus among themselves and with non-OECD member nations prior to upcoming conferences. While the Working Party on Communications Infrastructure and Services (CISP) was the first to propose the summit, other Working Parties within ICCP have also taken the proposal for a summit under consideration.

The United States will be working with other members in the run-up to the ICCP session of September 29-October 1 to advance these proposals. We call upon your assistance to expand upon the originally proposed summit theme, and to establish such an event at the level of an OECD global policy forum on a regular basis. We look forward to working with your team and participating in the 2011 summit.

Sincerely,



Karen F. Kornbluh
Ambassador

cc: Ambassador Philip L. Verveer, United States Coordinator, International
Communications and Information Policy
Lawrence E. Strickling, Administrator, National Telecommunications and Information
Administration
Julius Genachowski, Chairman, Federal Communications Commission